

Application Number 09/730,103

Responsive to Office Action mailed July 13, 2004

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated July 13, 2004. Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 4 and 7. Claims 1-12 are still pending.

Claim Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 7 and 12 as containing some informalities. In response to the Examiner's objections, Applicants have amended claim 7 in an attempt to address the Examiner's concerns. With regard to claim 12, however, Applicants do not recognize any informalities in this claim. For example, the Examiner's recommendation, with regard to claim 12, does not appear to change claim 12 in any way.

Applicants believe that all pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claim Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wickramasinghe et al. (US 4,747,698); rejected claims 3, 5, 6 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wickramasinghe in view of Kawaguchi et al. (US 4,952,902); and rejected claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wickramasinghe et al. (US 4,747,698) in view of Erskine et al. (US 5,243,858).

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 in order to clarify Applicants' claimed invention. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections to the extent such rejections may be considered applicable to the amended claims. The applied references fail to disclose or suggest the inventions defined by Applicants' claims, and provide no teaching that would have suggested the desirability of modification to arrive at the claimed invention.

In particular, claim 1 now clarifies that Applicants' invention is directed to a non-magnetic transducer for a data playback system in which the non-magnetic transducer senses variations in physical features of a patterned data storage medium. As claimed, the transducer comprises a temperature sensitive resistor mounted on the slider for a flying head application in which the slider flies over the patterned data storage medium such that the temperature sensitive resistor is positioned proximate the physical features of the patterned data storage medium. The

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transducer also comprises a bias current path including the temperature sensitive resistor, wherein the transducer produces signals that represent data recorded in the patterned data storage medium.

The amendments to claim 1 find support in various locations of Applicants' specification including the Abstract, lines 4-6; page 2, lines 17-24; page 4 lines 19-25; and page 6, lines 6-10.

None of the applied references is even remotely related to the data storage media applications to which Applicants' amended claims are now directed. For example, the Wickramasinghe reference cited by the Examiner as the primary reference in all pending rejections describes a scanning thermal profiler used for verification of etched lines and vias in semiconductor wafers. In this manner, the Wickramasinghe reference describes a probe device that would be totally unsuited for flyability in a flyable data storage media application. Similarly, the Kawaguchi reference generally describes conventional thermistor materials and elements, but provides no insight on the use of such materials in a data storage media application, much less the use of such materials within a slider for a flyable data storage media application. The Erskine reference relates to a fluid flow sensor, and appears to be of dubious relevance to Applicants' amended claims.

Clearly, none of the applied references discloses or suggests a temperature sensitive resistor mounted on the slider for a flying head application in which the slider flies over a patterned data storage medium such that the temperature sensitive resistor is positioned proximate the physical features of the patterned data storage medium, as now recited in Applicants' claims. For this reason, Applicants believe that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims. Applicants reserve further comment with regard to features recited in Applicants' dependent claims, but do not acquiesce to any of the Examiner's rejections or characterizations of the prior art.

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Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 09-0069. The Examiner is invited to telephone the below-signed attorney to discuss this application.

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10/1/4

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